

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-02 HA-05 TRSE-00 SY-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
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USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 04012

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, CA
SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION, GENEVA, AUGUST 14-25, 1978

REF: STATE 204786

1. SUMMARY: CANADA TAKES STRONG POSITION AGAINST
ZIONISM-RACISM EQUATION, HAS BEEN LOBBYING ON ISSUE
SINCE EARLY THIS YEAR, AND IS CONSIDERING WITHDRAWAL
FROM CURRENT GENEVA CONFERENCE IF LINK IS REAFFIRMED.
END SUMMARY.

2. DCM MET AUGUST 14 WITH JAMES S. NUTT, ACTING UNDER
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND ANTHONY
ADVOKAAT, ACTING DIRECTOR, UN POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, TO DISCUSS SUBJECT
CONFERENCE, LEAVING AIDE MEMOIRE ALONG LINES SET FORTH
REFTEL, AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT CANADA WOULD STRESS
TO KEY AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS SERIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD
BE CAUSED BY RE-EMERGENCE OF ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE.
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3. CANADIANS RESPONDED THAT U.S. COULD "COUNT ON US"
AT CONFERENCE, WHERE THEY ARE REPRESENTED BY THREE-MAN
DELEGATION HEADED BY GENEVA PERMREP HARRY JAY. THEY
INDICATED THAT CANADA HAD INITIATED CONTACTS WITH WEO'S
AND AFRICAN MODERATES AS EARLY AS LAST FEBRUARY-MARCH
ON THIS ISSUE. ADVOKAAT EXPRESSED CAUTIOUS ENCOURAGE-

MENT AT RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM AFRICANS, AND OUTCOME OF LAGOS ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE AND RECENT MEETINGS IN MAPUTO AND PARIS GAVE SOME GROUND FOR OPTIMISM. HE NOTED THAT GENEVA PROCEDURE OF DRAWING UP DECLARATION AND PLAN OF ACTION WOULD REQUIRE CONSENSUS SUPPORT WHICH SHOULD INCREASE CHANCES OF RESISTING OBJECTIONABLE LANGUAGE.

4. FOR ITS PART, CANADA WOULD ACCEPT NO ALLUSION TO UN ZIONISM-AS-RACISM RESOLUTION, INCLUDING ANY REFERENCE TO "RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS." CANADA'S PREPAREDNESS TO WITHDRAW "IF CONFERENCE GOES OFF THE RAILS" IS MORE THAN JUST THEORETICAL, ACCORDING TO ADVOCAT. FOR THAT REASON, CANADA HAD DECLINED REQUEST TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF SECOND CONFERENCE COMMITTEE (WHICH IS EXPECTED TO DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION). HOWEVER, CANADA HAD RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO ACCEPT ONE OF THE TEN VICE-PRESIDENCIES IN THE CONFERENCE BUREAU IN THE HOPE THAT THAT WOULD BE EFFECTIVE POSITION FROM WHICH TO INFLUENCE PROCEEDINGS.

5. COMMENT: CANADIAN OPPOSITION TO ZIONISM-RACISM EQUATION IS STRONG, AND EXTAFF OFFICIALS ARE ACTIVE AND WELL INFORMED ON ISSUE. RESPONSE OF CANADIAN PUBLIC OPINION TO ORIGINAL RESOLUTION PARALLELED THAT IN U.S., AND EXTAFF OFFICIALS ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT HANDLING OF THIS MATTER IN GENEVA COULD AFFECT ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH EFFORTS GO FORWARD TO ACHIEVE NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT. CONFIDENTIAL

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ENDERS

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